

What is claimed is:

1        1. A system for automatically collecting  
2        charges in accordance with individual consumptions  
3        of a source from one or more users, said system  
4        comprising:

5                one or more user's mediums, provided one for  
6        each of the users, for storing electronic money,  
7        which is defined as an electronic alternative to  
8        a currency;

9                a source consumption monitor for monitoring  
10       the source consumptions for the individual users;  
11       and

12               a charge collector for collecting the charges  
13       in accordance with the individual source  
14       consumptions, which are monitored by said source  
15       consumption monitor, from the respective user's  
16       mediums as corresponding equivalent amounts of  
17       electronic money.

1        2. A system for automatically collecting  
2        charges according to claim 1, wherein said charge  
3        collector collects the charges in accordance with  
4        the individual source consumptions, which are  
5        monitored by said source consumption monitor, from  
6        the respective user's mediums at any time as  
7        required.

1           3. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 1, wherein, if the charge  
3 in accordance with the source consumption is not  
4 collected from any one of said user's mediums, said  
5 charge collector stops providing the source for the  
6 user of said one medium.

1           4. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 2, wherein, if the charge  
3 in accordance with the source consumption is not  
4 collected from any one of said user's mediums, said  
5 charge collector stops providing the source for the  
6 user of said one medium.

1           5. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 1, wherein  
3            said source consumption monitor monitors  
4 amounts of source consumed by the individual users;  
5 and  
6            said charge collector calculates the charges  
7 based on the amounts of the consumed source and  
8 previously set unit price for the source, and  
9 collects the calculated charges from said respective  
10 user's mediums.

1           6. A system for automatically collecting

2 charges according to claim 2, wherein  
3               said source consumption monitor monitors  
4 amounts of source consumed by the individual users;  
5 and

6               said charge collector calculates the charges  
7 based on the amounts of the consumed source and  
8 previously set unit price for the source, and  
9 collects the calculated charges from said respective  
10 user's mediums.

1               7. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 3, wherein  
3               said source consumption monitor monitors  
4 amounts of source consumed by the individual users;  
5 and

6               said charge collector calculates the charges  
7 based on the amounts of the consumed source and  
8 previously set unit price for the source, and  
9 collects the calculated charges from respective  
10 user's mediums.

1               8. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 4, wherein  
3               said source consumption monitor monitors  
4 amounts of source consumed by the individual users;  
5 and  
6               said charge collector calculates the charges

7 based on the amounts of the consumed source and  
8 previously set unit price for the source, and  
9 collects the calculated charges from respective  
10 user's mediums.

1 9. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 5, wherein said charge  
3 collector includes a unit price setting area in which  
4 the unit price is set from an external device of  
5 said charge collector.

1 10. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 6, wherein said charge  
3 collector includes a unit price setting area in which  
4 the unit price is set from an external device of  
5 said charge collector.

1 11. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 7, wherein said charge  
3 collector includes a unit price setting area in which  
4 the unit price is set from an external device of  
5 said charge collector.

1 12. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 8, wherein said charge  
3 collector includes a unit price setting area in which  
4 the unit price is set from an external device of

5 said charge collector.

1 13. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 9, wherein the unit price  
3 in said unit price setting area is set and updated  
4 by a provider of the source via a communication line.

1 14. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 10, wherein the unit price  
3 in said unit price setting area is set and updated  
4 by a provider of the source via a communication line.

1 15. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 11, wherein the unit price  
3 in said unit price setting area is set and updated  
4 by a provider of the source via a communication line.

1 16. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 12, wherein the unit price  
3 in said unit price setting area is set and updated  
4 by a provider of the source via a communication line.

1 17. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 1, further comprising  
3 one or more user's monitors, one provided for each  
4 user, for displaying at least one of the source  
5 consumption for the individual user, the charge in

6 accordance with the source consumption, and the  
7 balance of electronic money stored in said user's  
8 medium for each said user, for monitoration by each  
9 said user.

1 18. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 1, further comprising  
3 a charge collector's monitor for displaying at least  
4 one of the source consumptions for the individual  
5 users, the charges in accordance with the individual  
6 source consumptions, and the balances of electronic  
7 money stored in said respective user's mediums, for  
8 monitoration by said charge collector.

1 19. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 1, further comprising  
3 a payment medium for storing the electronic money  
4 which has been collected from said user's mediums  
5 by said charge collector.

1 20. A system for automatically collecting  
2 charges according to claim 19, further comprising  
3 a collector's payment unit for receiving the  
4 electronic money, which has been stored in said  
5 payment medium.

1 21. A system for automatically collecting

2       charges according to claim 20, wherein said  
3       collector's payment unit sends the electronic money,  
4       which has been received from said payment medium,  
5       to a provider of the source via a communication line.

1           22. A system for automatically collecting  
2       charges according to claim 20, further comprising  
3       a mobile terminal which includes a memory for  
4       receiving and storing the electronic money collected  
5       by said payment unit.

1           23. A terminal for automatically collecting  
2       charges in accordance with consumptions of a source  
3       from one or more users, wherein  
4           said terminal is communicably connected with  
5       one or more user's mediums, provided one for each  
6       of the users, for storing electronic money, which  
7       is defined as an electronic alternative to a currency,  
8       and  
9           said terminal is equipped with a charge  
10      collector for collecting the charges in accordance  
11      with the individual source consumptions from the  
12      respective user's mediums as corresponding  
13      equivalent amounts of electronic money.

1           24. A terminal for automatically collecting  
2       charges according to claim 23, further comprising

3 a monitor for displaying at least one of the source  
4 consumptions for the individual users, the charges  
5 in accordance with the individual source  
6 consumptions, and the balances of electronic money  
7 stored in said respective user's mediums.